



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Public Health

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November 20, 2014

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Cynthia A. Harding, M.P.H.
Interim Director

SUBJECT: **CHANGES IN THE STATEWIDE BLACK INFANT HEALTH PROGRAM**

This report is to update your Board about recent, unanticipated changes to the statewide Black Infant Health Program (BIH) impacting the local BIH Program in Los Angeles County. I previously informed your Board about the statewide BIH program in a September 16, 2014 memo that provided background on the program, funding, and the steps the Department of Public Health (DPH) is taking to implement changes in the program's service models.

On October 28, 2014, the State Maternal Child and Adolescent Health-BIH Program notified each of the Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs) that the BIH funding for the statewide program will be recalculated based on the latest data for African American births. As a result, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) will be releasing a Request for Supplemental Information (RSI) to the LHJs in January 2015. DPH will respond to the RSI by the February 2015 due date. Each awarded LHJ will be notified of new funding allocations for the period beginning July 1, 2015. At this time we cannot anticipate whether Los Angeles County will receive an increase or decrease in current funding based on the new funding distribution process. In addition to the data for African American births, the State's funding determinations will also be based on the number of LHJs that apply for funding through the RSI and other considerations that may ultimately affect Los Angeles County's funding award.

Local Impact and Next Steps

We previously informed your Board that DPH anticipated releasing a RFP for the BIH program this fall. As a result of this funding change announcement, DPH is delaying the release of the RFP until after July 2015 when the finalized scope of work, policies and procedures, and funding allocations have been determined by the state.

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DPH will be returning to your Board next year to recommend approval to extend BIH contracts to continue to provide services under the current program model until the statewide RSI and local RFP processes are complete. On June 4, 2014, your Board previously approved extending current contracts through June 2015. Because the funding level for the upcoming program year may be less than what is currently allocated to DPH, we will recommend extending current contracts through June 2016, at levels commensurate with available funding, and with delegated authority to extend the contracts through completion of the RFP process.

The DPH Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Programs division anticipates new BIH subcontractor agreements to provide the revised service model will be executed by July 1, 2016, after the conclusion of the RFP process.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please let me know.

CAH:smb
PH:1411:003

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors